



HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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40 Developmental Assets

**Building blocks of healthy development
that help children grow up healthy, caring
and responsible**

Presented by: Decrecia Limbrick, Assistant Director
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The Developmental Assets® are 40 research-based, positive experiences and qualities that influence young people's development, helping them become caring, responsible, and productive adults.

The supports, opportunities, and relationships young people need across all aspects of their lives (called “external assets”); and

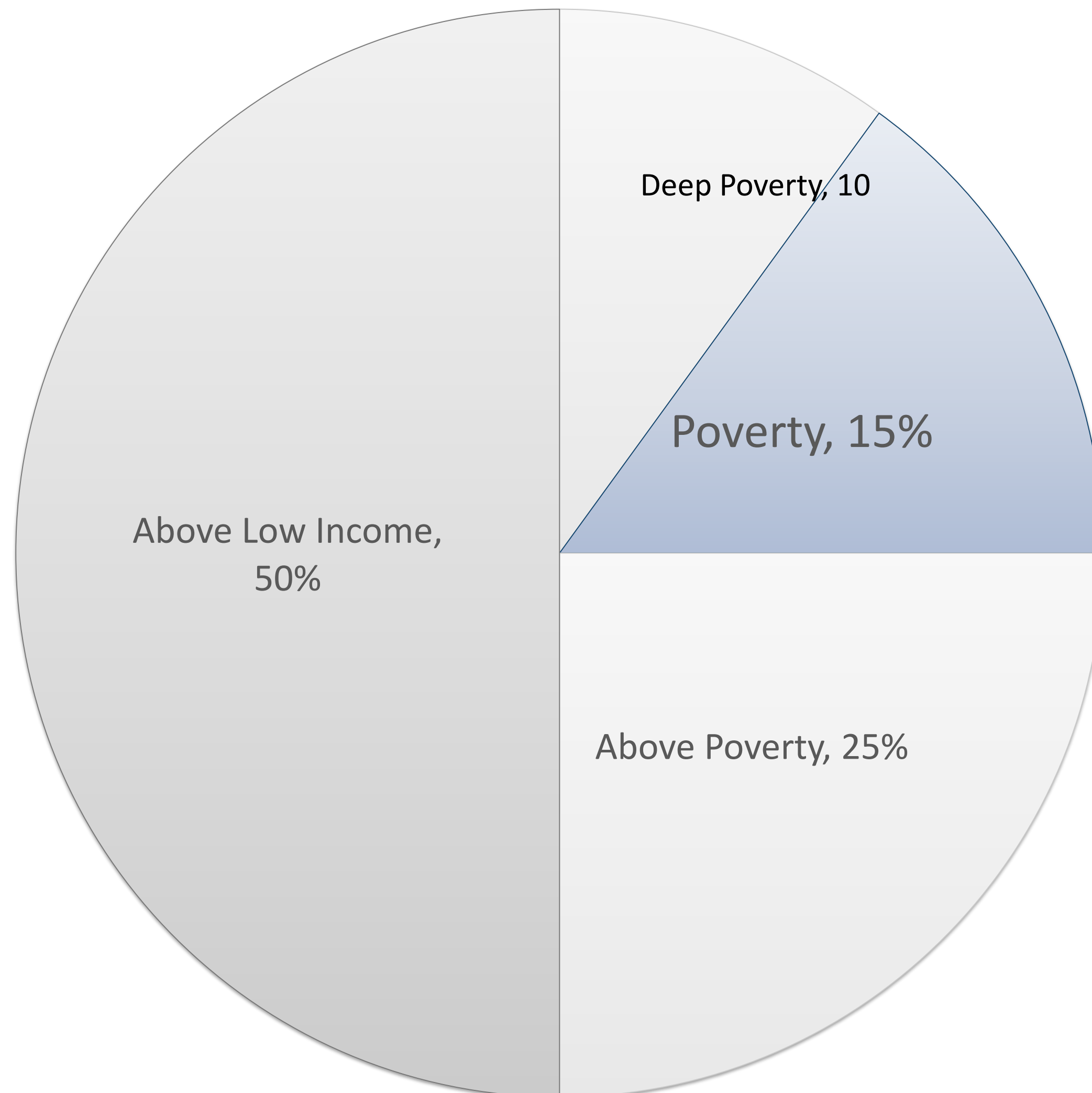
The personal skills, self-perceptions, and values they need (called “internal assets”) to make good choices, take responsibility for their own lives, and be independent and fulfilled.

Goal Answer – Houston’s children are not only growing up free from disease but they are thriving in our city where every child in every community achieves optimal healthy development

Adopting the 40 Developmental Assets Framework to rethink the way we engage with children, families and youth in Houston to have a positive impact on their life’s trajectory

Here's What We Know – Poverty Poses Significant Challenges for Children's Well Being?

Income Levels for Children under 18 in Harris County, 2017



Deep Poverty (less than 50% FPL)

Poverty (50-99% FPL)

Above Poverty (100-199% FPL)

Above Low Income (200% FPL or more)

For two parents with one child, annual income for families in each low-income group in 2017 was:

- Above poverty (low-income): below \$39,460
- Poverty: below \$19,730
- Deep poverty: below \$9,865

Children Living Below Poverty Level

Census Place (City): Houston ▼

Measurement Period: 2013-2017 ▼

⚙️ Filter: none (all Census Places (Cities))



Family income has been shown to affect a child's well-being in numerous studies. Compared to their peers, children in poverty are more likely to have physical health problems like low birth weight or lead poisoning, and are also more likely to have behavioral and emotional problems. Children in poverty also tend to exhibit cognitive difficulties, as shown in achievement test scores, and are less likely to complete basic education.

Census Place (City): Houston

33.3%

Source: American Community Survey [🔗](#)
Measurement period: 2013-2017
Maintained by: Conduent Healthy Communities Institute
Last update: March 2019
Filter(s) for this location: Substate Region: 6a, TEA Region: Region 4

COMPARED TO



TX Census Places



U.S. Census Places



Harris, TX County Value
(25.0%)



TX Value
(22.9%)



US Value
(20.3%)



Prior Value
(34.2%)

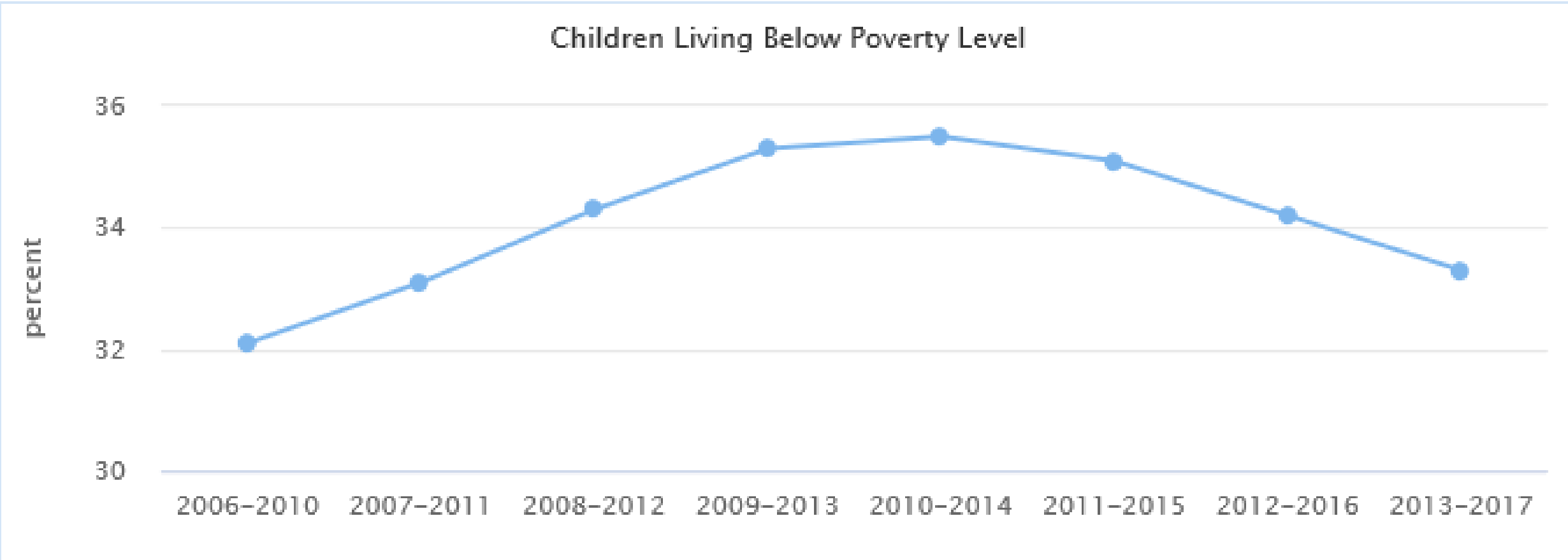


Trend

Graph Selections

INDICATOR VALUES

☒ Change over Time



Median Household Income - ~47,000 (\$10,000 below national median income)

40% of children benefit from some form of public assistance (10% greater than national average)

Neighborhood Variances

- West University
 - Median household income - \$220,000
 - 1% students in schools are economically disadvantaged
- Sunnyside
 - Median household income – less than \$30,000
 - 75% students in schools economically disadvantaged



**If you saw a rose
growing from the
concrete...**

**Would you critique it's
damaged petals or try
to help it grow?**

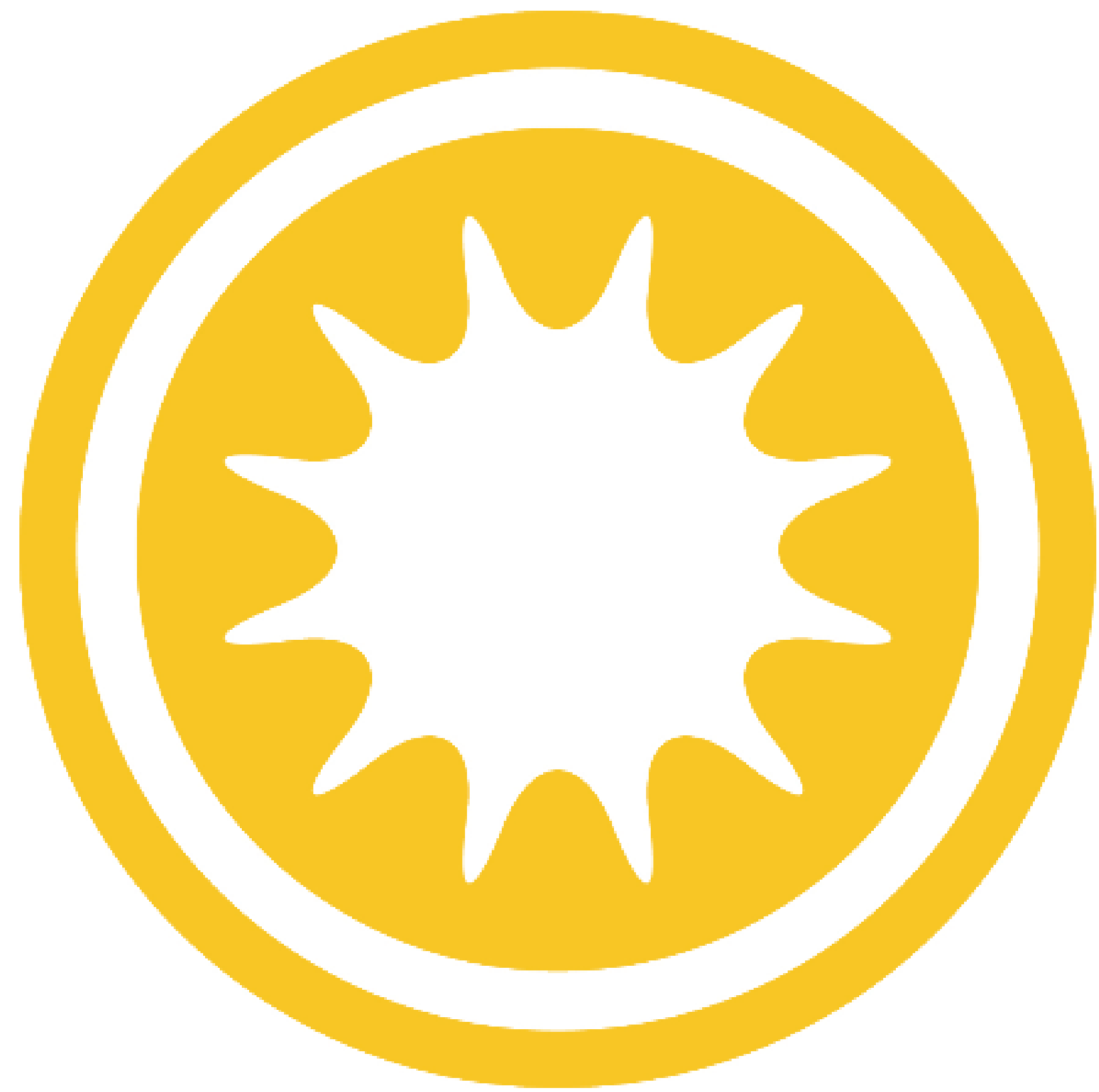


Developmental Assets – Support External

- Family Support
- Positive Family Communication
- Other Adult Relationships
- Caring Neighbors
- Caring Climate in childcare and educational settings
- Parent involvement in childcare and education



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Developmental Assets – Empowerment External

- Community cherishes and values young children
- Children seen as resources
- Service to others
- Safety



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Developmental Assets – Boundaries and Expectations External

- Family boundaries
- Boundaries in child-care and educational settings
- Neighborhood boundaries
- Adult role models
- Positive peer relationships
- Positive expectations



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Developmental Assets – Constructive Use of Time External

- Play and creative activities
- Out of home and community programs
- Religious community
- Time at home



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Developmental Assets – Commitment to Learning Internal

- Motivation to mastery
- Engagement in learning experiences
- Home-program connection
- Bonding to programs
- Early literacy



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Developmental Assets – Positive Values Internal

- Caring
- Equality and social justice
- Integrity
- Honesty
- Responsibility
- Self-Regulation



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Developmental Assets – Social Competencies Internal

- Planning and decision making
- Interpersonal skills
- Cultural awareness and sensitivity
- Resistance skills
- Peaceful conflict resolution



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Developmental Assets – Positive Identity Internal

- Personal power
- Self-esteem
- Sense of purpose
- Positive view of personal future



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Approach – Socioecological Saturation



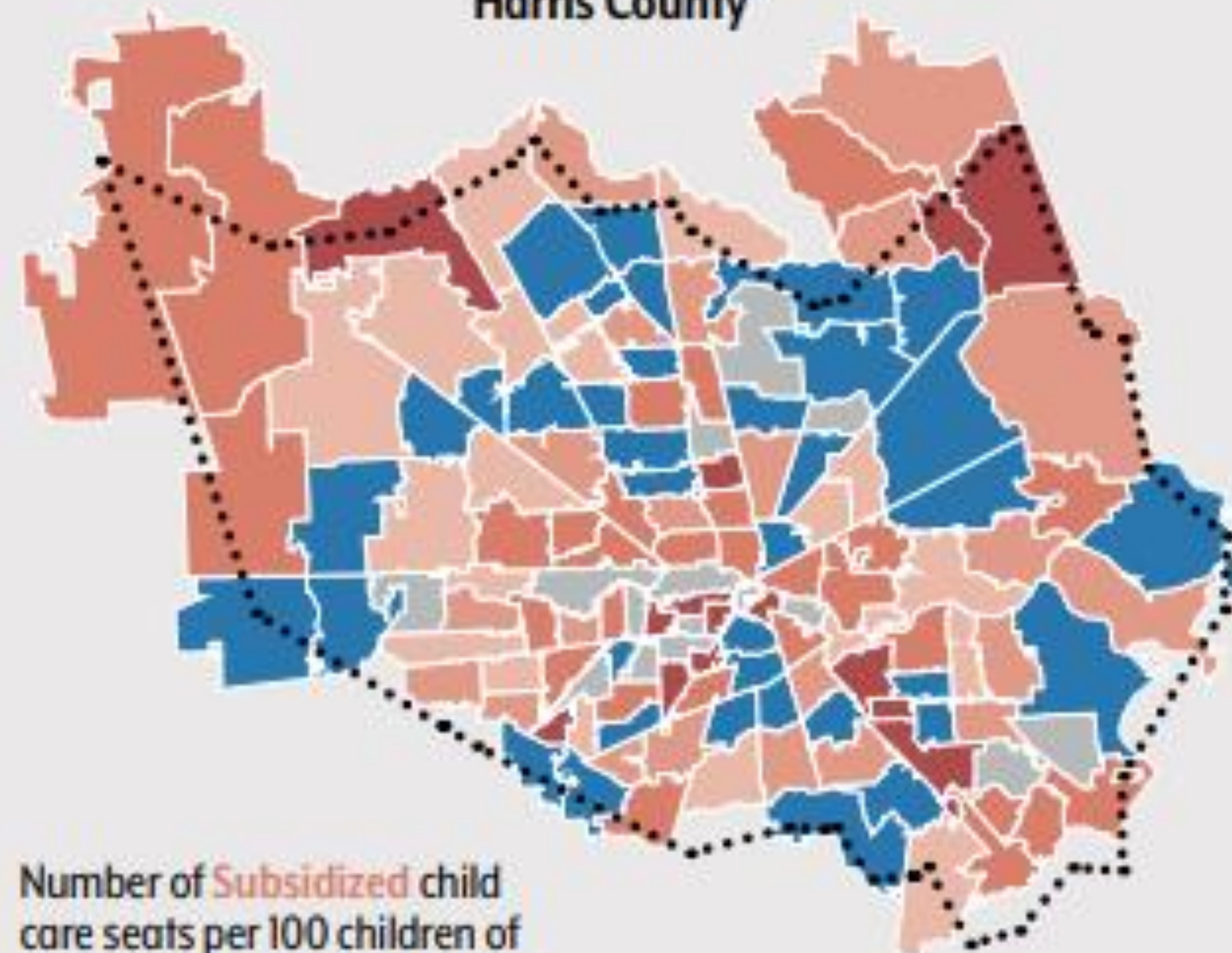
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Child Care Centers

Pipeline for success

Subsidized Child Care Deserts

Harris County



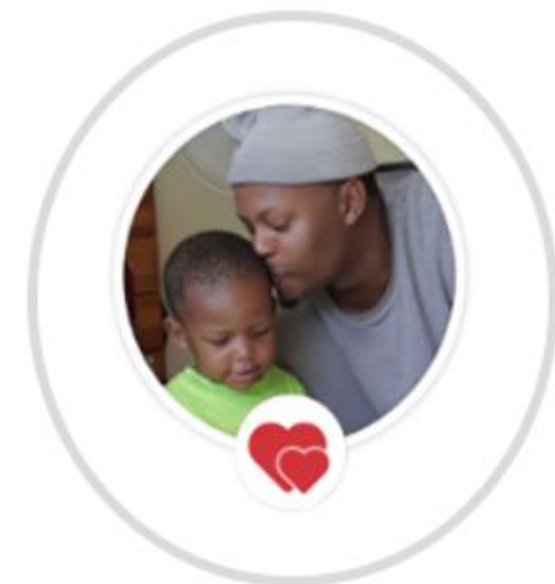
Number of **Subsidized** child care seats per 100 children of low-income, working parents

0-4	5-9	10-24	25-33	Not a Desert	Too few children
14 zip codes	29	22	21	37	18

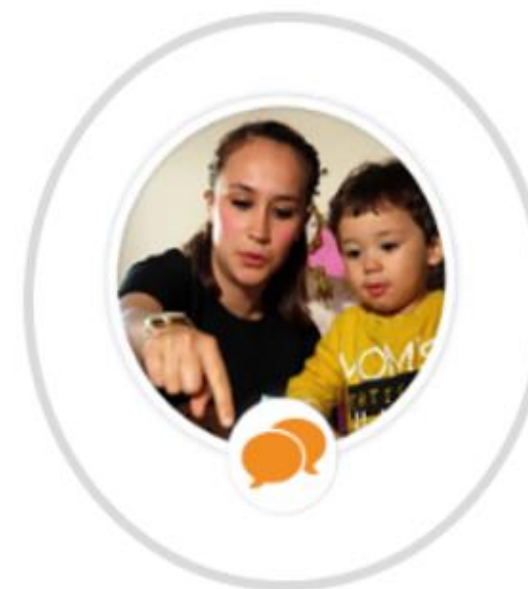
Assets Enforced:

- Caring climate in childcare and educational settings
- Children seen as resources
- Engagement in learning experiences

Thank you CM Cisneros for investing in the Texas Rising Star program!



**1. Maximize Love,
Manage Stress**



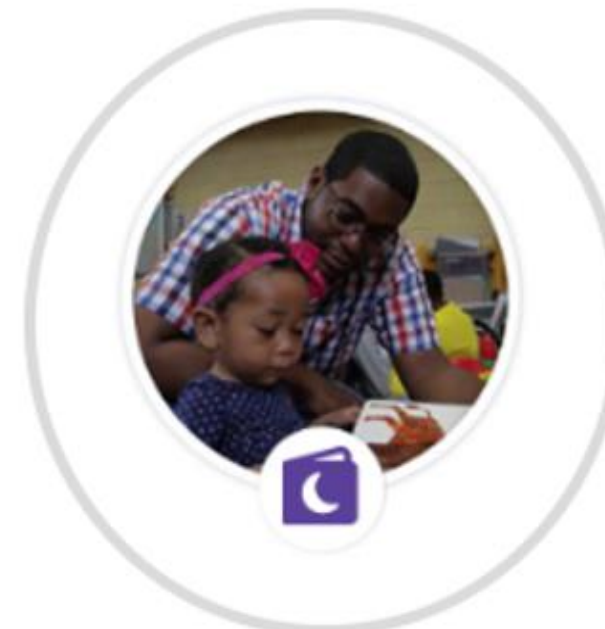
2. Talk, Sing, and Point



**3. Count, Group, and
Compare**



**4. Explore through
Movement and Play**



**5. Read and Discuss
Stories**

Assets Enforced:

- Family Support
- Positive Family Communication
- Early literacy (EC)/Reading for pleasure (A)
- Sense of Purpose

Existing Programming

- Basics Workshops Welcome Baby
- Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)
- Healthy Families (HF)

What can we impact

Diversity in Children's Books 2015

Percentages of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds
Based on the 2015 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children's
Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison
ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pctats.asp



Asset Enforced:

- Early Literacy
- Cultural awareness and sensitivity
- Self-Esteem

Existing Programming

- The Basics Houston
- NFP/HF



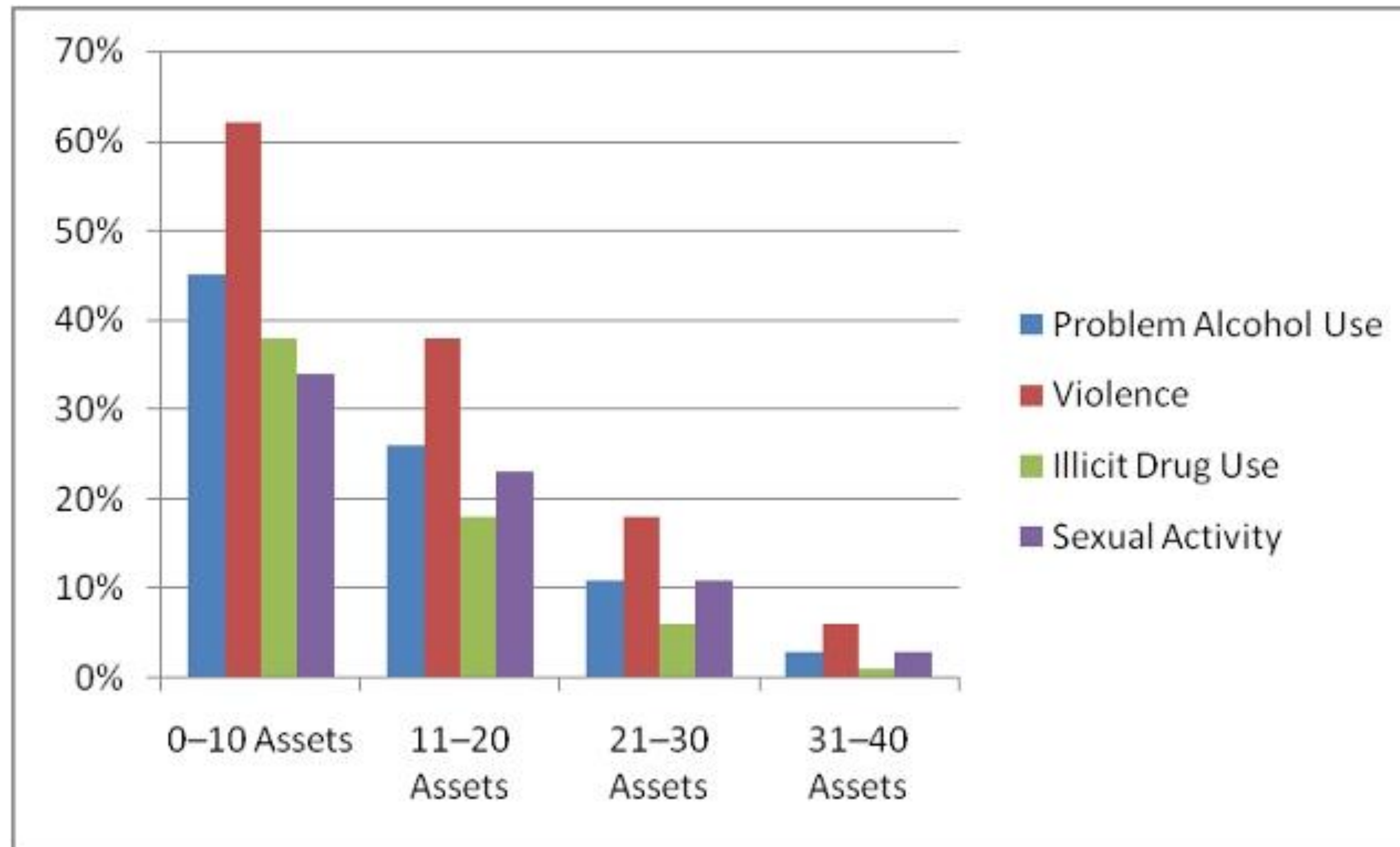
Asset Enforced:

- Self-Regulation
- Personal Power
- Interpersonal skills
- Resistance skills
- Peaceful conflict resolution

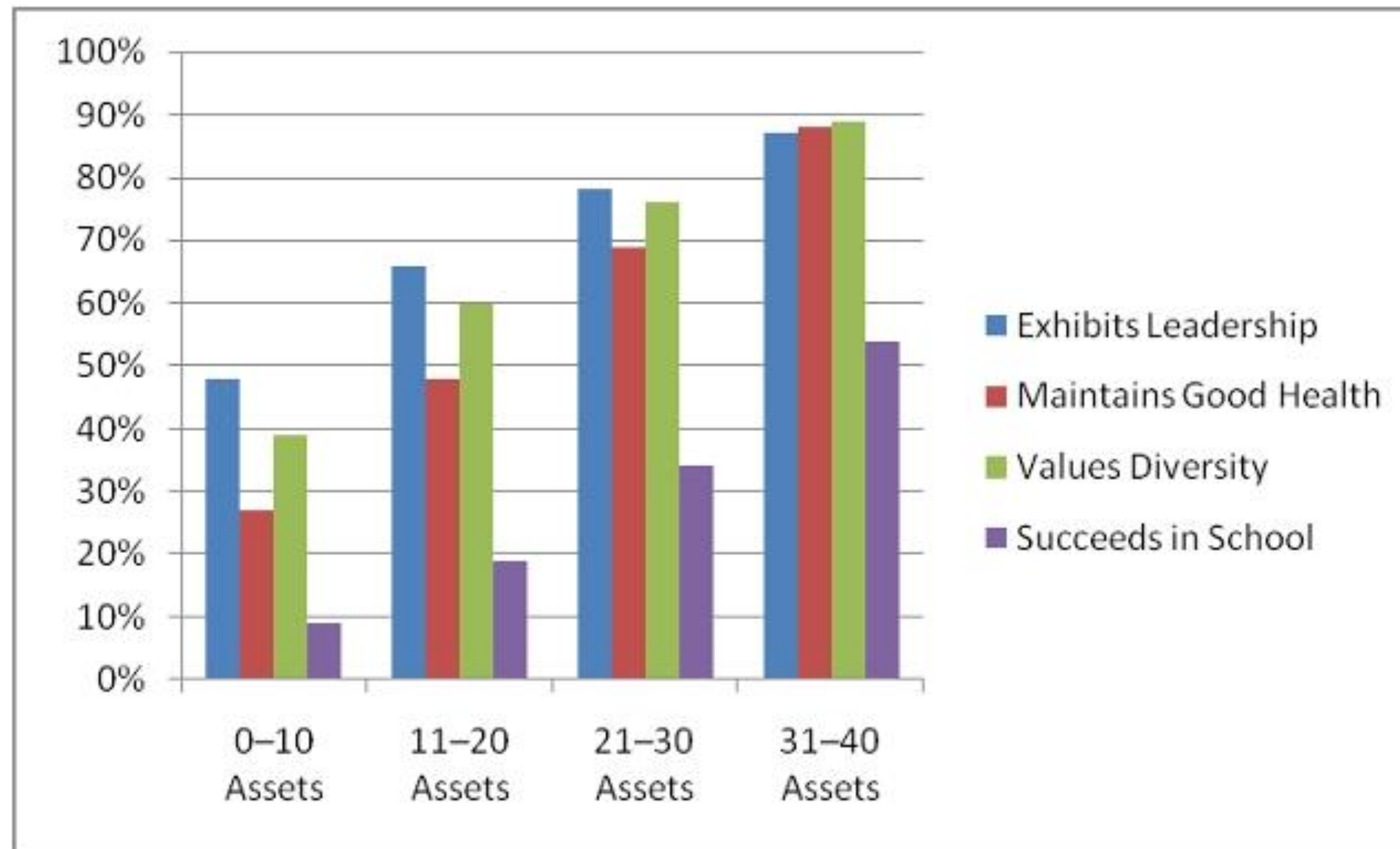
Existing Programming

- Redirect Program
- Youth LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion)
- MBK Houston Systems of Care

Assets and Risky Behavior



Assets and Behavior



What is the City's Role

- Develop and strengthen quality partnerships
- Support intersectional initiatives with shared community goals
- Develop sustainable community informed strategies
- Strengthen infrastructure
- Evaluation
- Continuous transparent communication



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It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men

~ Frederick Douglas